

Management of MG/MS in Small Flock Operations

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Georgia Poultry
Laboratory Network

SFO MG/MS Status

- How is it determined?
 - NPIP testing
 - Routine health testing
 - Flock surveys
 - Auction/Flea market testing
 - Exhibition testing
 - Diagnostic cases



SFO MG/MS Status

- Highly variable reported results
 - MG in 15-85% of SFOs in Georgia
 - MS in 12-60% of SFOs in Georgia
- Why?
 - Class of birds
 - Small number of samples
 - Rate of exposure



SFO MG/MS Status

- One thing is for certain, the number is steadily rising, especially for MS.
- Why MS?
 - Current outbreaks?
 - Typically less virulent
 - Pathology more present in turkeys, peafowl, partridges, and possibly exotic fowl?
 - More of an issue with viral exposure

What happens in South Georgia?

- Before testing, develop a rapport and discuss our MG/MS monitoring program.
- Discuss the ramifications of knowing ones MG/MS status.
- Share the MG/MS information sheet and the USDA pamphlet "Biosecurity is for the Birds".
- Owner has the choice to opt for free MG/MS testing.
- If positive, a veterinarian helps develop a program to fit the need of the SFO.

One thing for certain....

- Do not test them without their knowledge and then send them the results.



MG/MS Positive SFO Reality

- Controlled/limited sales
- Reduced prices
- Unethical selling dilemma
- Spread of illness to another SFO
- Announcement of status
- Decreased activity in industry segment
- Loss of breed genetics
- A feeling of unfairness

MG/MS Positive SFO Options

- Do nothing
- Depopulation
- Depopulation and clean restock
- Periodic treatment
- Vaccination
- Heritage genetics recovery



Once you return an SFO to MG/MS Clean.....then what?

- Limited MG/MS Clean sources
- Industry segments are Positive....
 - Shows/exhibitions/gf
 - Sales and trades
 - Naïve birds sold to positive flocks
 - Reflect poorly on the Clean SFO
 - Selection of new stock
- The deck is stacked against them.

Post-event Quarantine for MG/MS Clean SFO

- Is 30 days enough?.....
- Prophylactic antibiotics?
- PCR test at 21 and/or 28 days?
- Strict biosecurity practices



But where do you get MG/MS Clean stock?

- How many NPIP MG/MS Clean flocks are available?
- Major mail order hatcheries?
- Test and purchase
- Offsite or secondary grow site



Why are there so few NPIP MG/MS Clean SFOs?

- Education?
- Cost/Labor?
- Lack of Advantages?
- Industry is MG/MS Positive.....



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What are the advantages to be NPIP MG/MS Clean?

- Prestige
- Value Added Product (VAP)
- Pricing?



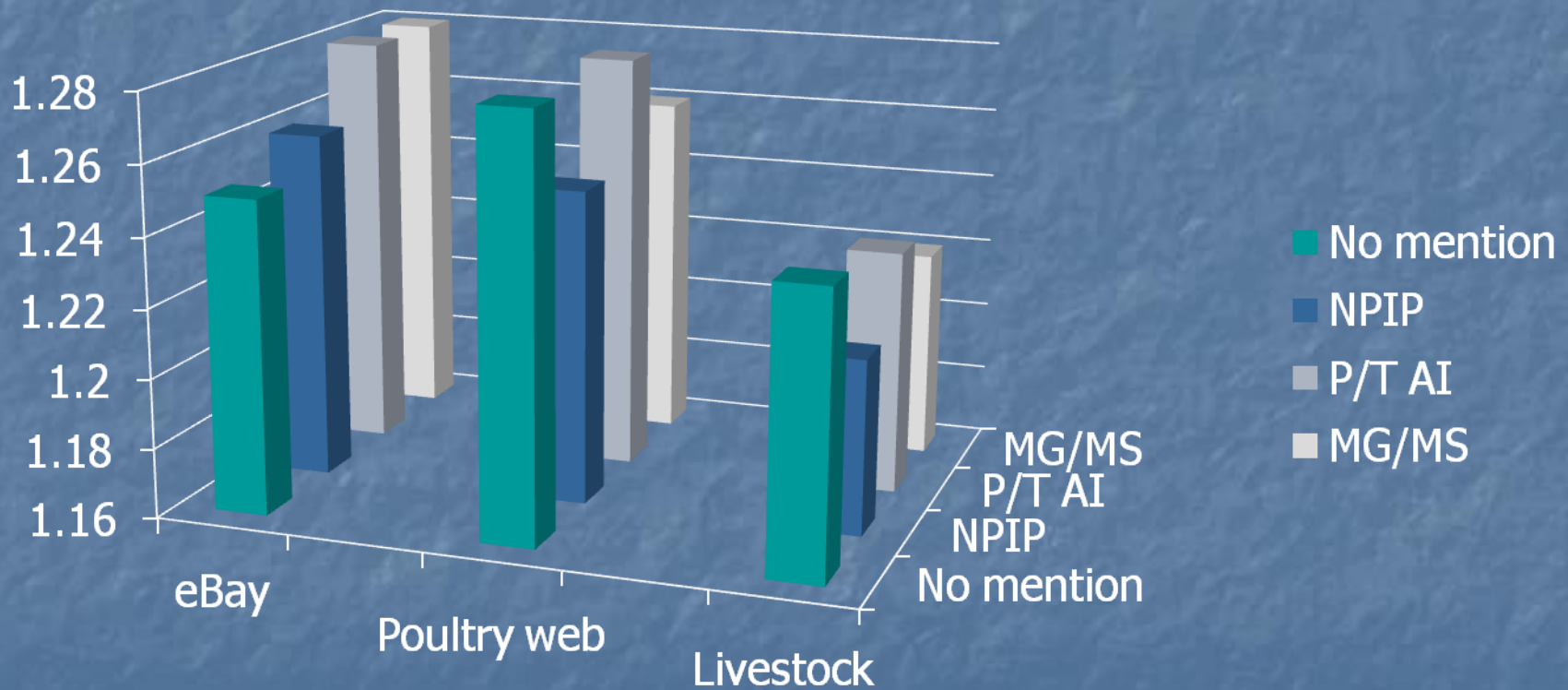
MG/MS Clean Status Cost Benefit

- 2010-2013
- Auctions (\$0.25 starting point)
 - eBay
 - Poultry/Egg related internet auction sites
 - State livestock auctions
- Side by side ads
 - No mention of NPIP vs NPIP tested
 - NPIP Pullorum/Typhoid/AI Clean
 - NPIP Pullorum/Typhoid/AI/MG/MS Clean

MG/MS Clean Status

Cost Benefit

Auction price per chick



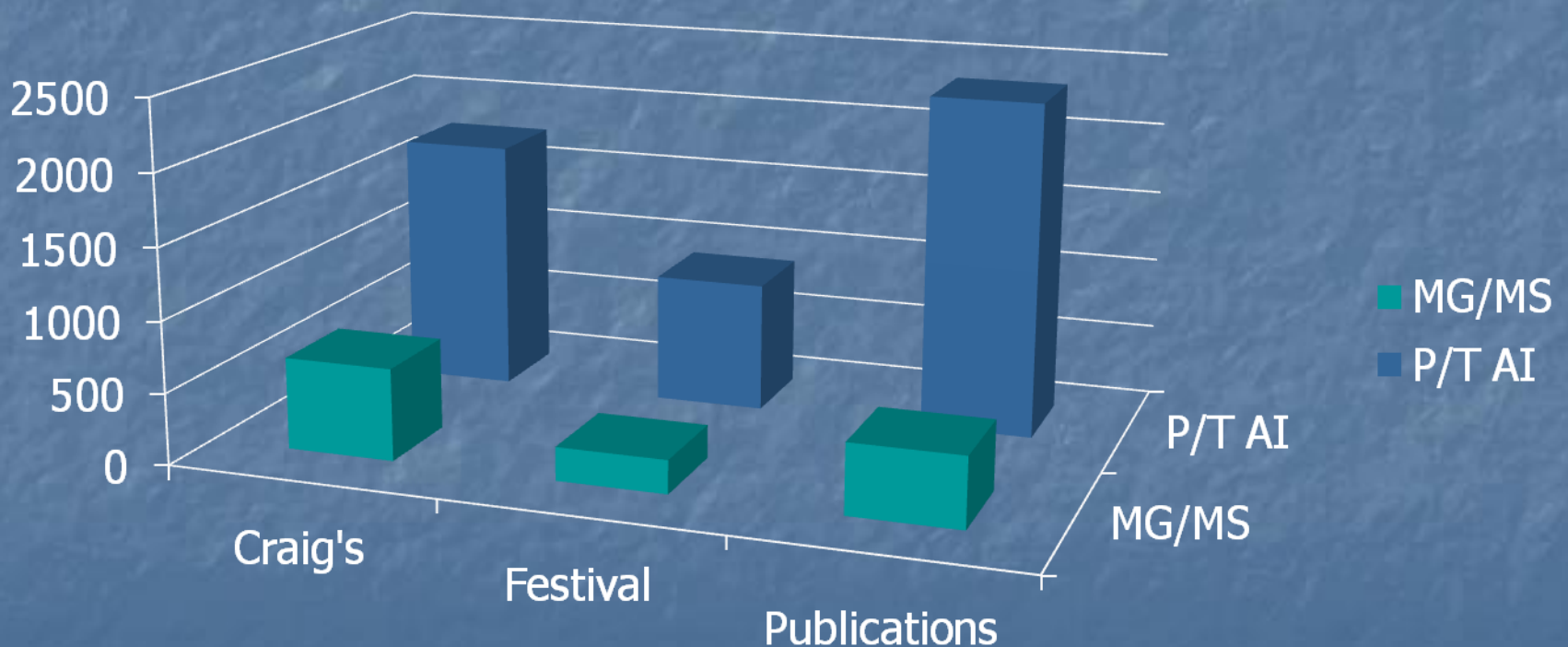
MG/MS Clean Status Cost Benefit

- 2010-2013
- Direct VAP sales (\$2.50 vs \$1.25)
 - Craigs list
 - Weekend festivals
 - SFO publications
- Side by side ads
 - NPIP Pullorum/Typhoid/AI Clean
 - NPIP Pullorum/Typhoid/AI/MG/MS Clean

MG/MS Clean Status

Cost Benefit

Chick sales by price point



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Why is there no value?

- Education
 - Not know the importance?
 - Not enough depopulated flocks to generate more sales?
 - NPIP “certified” is all you need?
- No perceived value?
- Would you bid higher or pay the premium?

So what's the bottom line?

- MG/MS Clean is preferred.
- MG/MS Positive has some limitations.
- Regaining Clean status is difficult.
- SFO industry segments tend to be positive....need to consider this in regulatory actions
- MG/MS Clean stock is a rarity.
- We still need to educate our SFOs.

Thank you very much!!

